

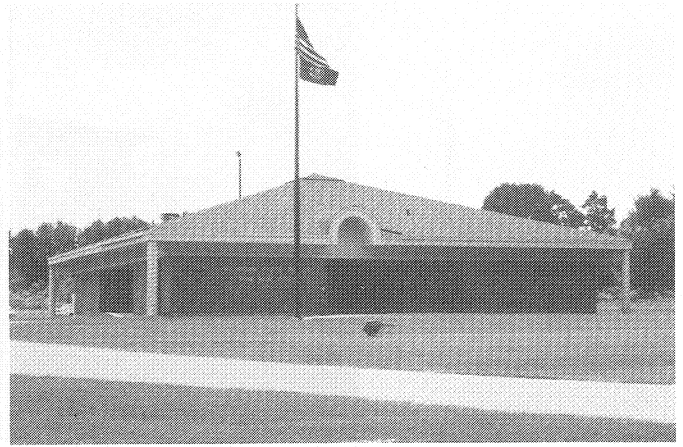
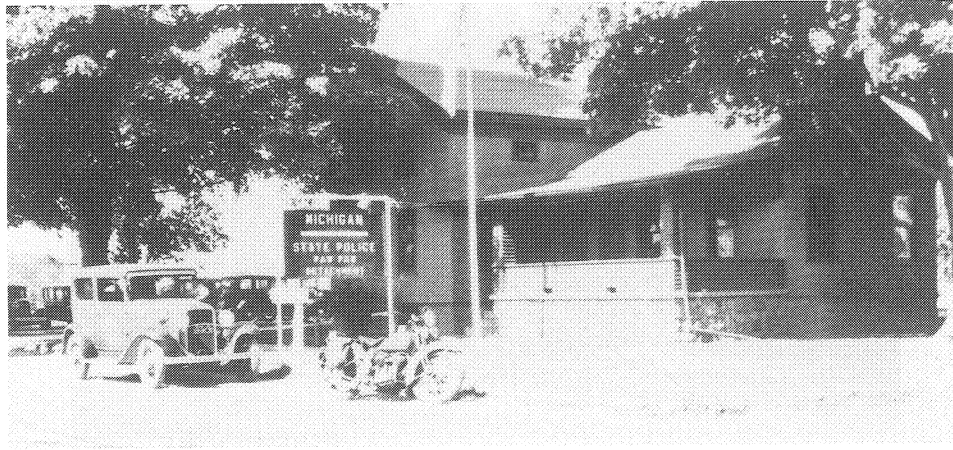
**FIFTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**  
**(Sta. 50)**

108 W. Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw, 49079

Paw Paw served as a leading post for southwestern Michigan long before Commissioner Oscar G. Olander chose it as headquarters for the new Fifth District in 1932.

A Michigan State Troops Permanent Force Detachment had been stationed at Lawton during World War I, and the Michigan State Police retained a post there in rented houses after the war - commanded from troop headquarters in Grand Rapids. When the troop system was abandoned in 1921, Paw Paw became the primary post for the southwest district under the command of Capt. Ora E. Demaray. Capt. Archie Downing, commander of all the Upper Peninsula detachments, traded places with Captain Demaray in 1928.

When Commissioner Olander established the current district system, he appointed Capt. William B. Babcock as commanding officer of the Fifth District. Both District Headquarters and the Paw Paw Post moved from a leased house into a new, brick, WPA barracks in 1936. District Headquarters was able to expand within this structure when the Paw Paw Post transferred to a modern post building near the I-94 freeway in 1989.



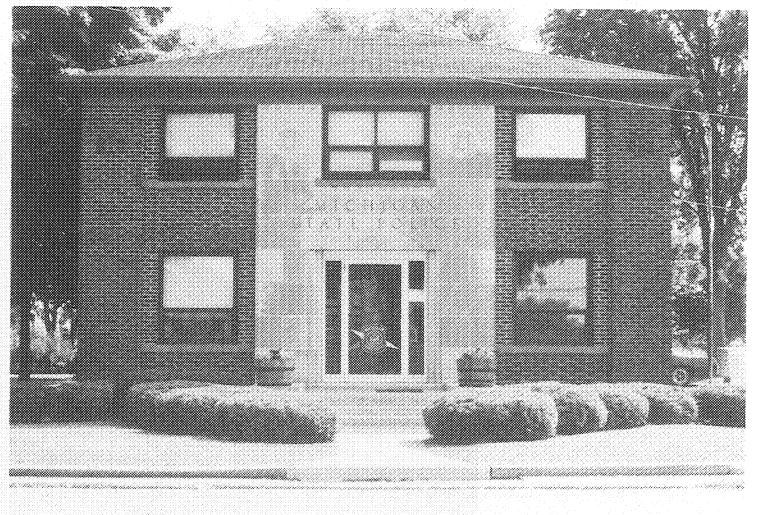
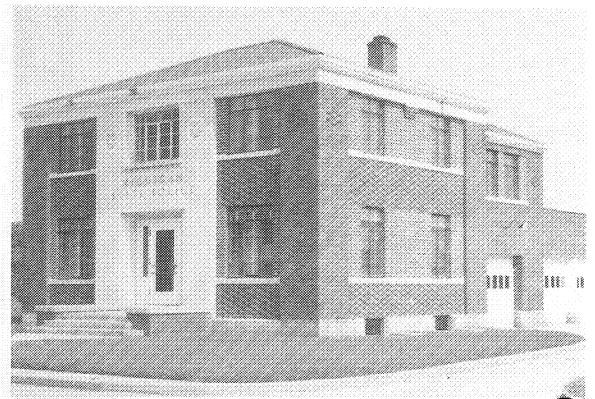
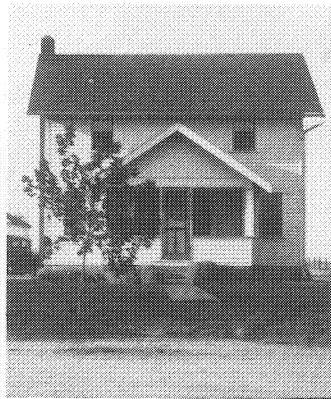
**PAW PAW POST**  
**(Post 51)**

43255 60th Avenue, Paw Paw, 49079

The Michigan State Troops Permanent Force assigned a three-man mounted detachment to protect munitions shipments and check passenger trains for German aliens at the Michigan Central Railroad depot in Lawton during World War I. The Michigan State Police retained the post after the war, using motorcycles to patrol US-12 for rumrunners and traffic violators. A motorcycle detachment was also maintained at Kalamazoo during the 1920's.

The Paw Paw Post was located in a succession of leased houses in the early days; first in the VanEck residence, then in the Beulah Howe home, the Zolp Funeral Home, and then in another house since destroyed. Fifth District Headquarters was also established at the Paw Paw Post in 1932.

In 1936, the Paw Paw Post and Fifth District Headquarters moved into the standard WPA brick structure at 108 W. Michigan Avenue, which they shared until the post transferred into the modern prototype building near I-94 in 1989.



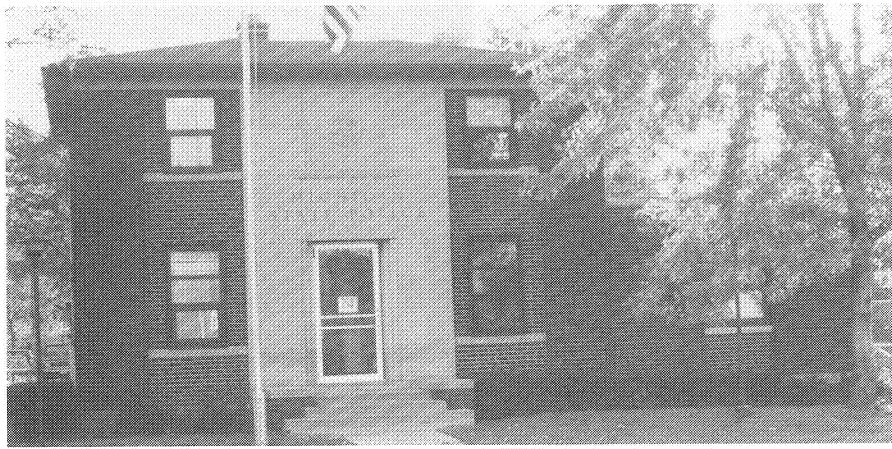
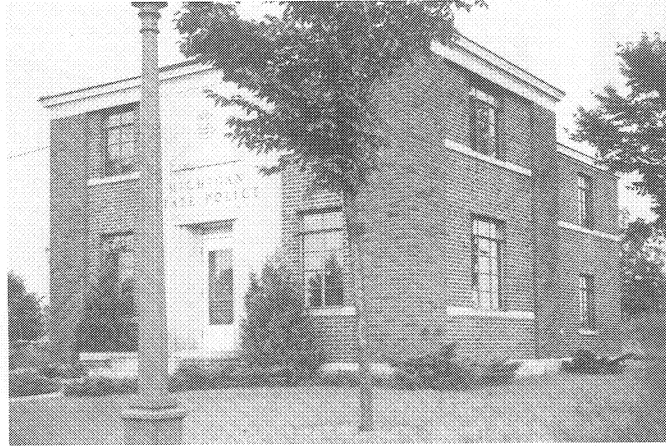
**WHITE PIGEON POST**  
**(Post 52)**

15038 US-12, White Pigeon, 49099

On September 2, 1920, a four-man State Police detachment left Grand Rapids Troop Headquarters for Sturgis; Corp. Fred H. Hass drove to Sturgis on a State Police motorcycle while Troopers Postma, Boynton, and McFarland took three days to travel the ninety-mile distance on horseback. They rented quarters in a private residence at the intersection of US-12 and Jefferson Street.

The Sturgis Detachment patrolled farms and rural areas and enforced traffic and prohibition laws. The detachment commander stated in November, 1920; "No motorcycle police will be maintained here during the winter, the icy roads making speeding negligible. The troopers will patrol country roads on horseback, however."

Although designated as a permanent post in 1920, the Sturgis Post apparently closed for several years. State Police annual reports mention the reopening of a summer post again at Sturgis in 1927. The post transferred to a rented house on US-12 in White Pigeon on September 5, 1928, then moved to a more suitable house two blocks further east in 1931. The present brick WPA building was completed at the northeast corner of US-12 and US-131 in 1936.



**NILES POST**  
**(Post 53)**

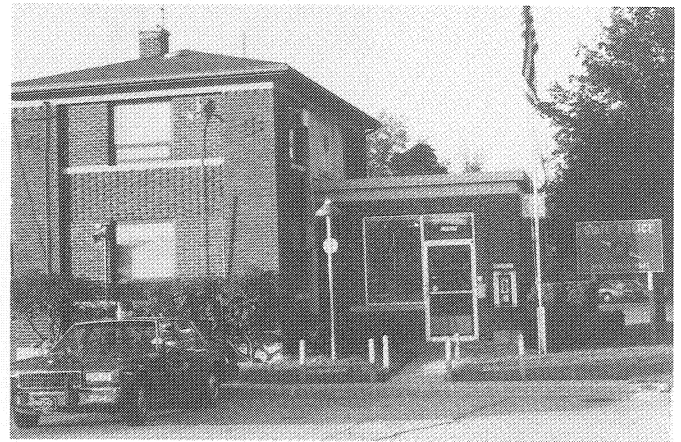
1001 S. 11th Street, Niles, 49120

The Michigan State Police first opened a "permanent" detachment in rented quarters at 1536 Oak Street in the city of Niles in 1931. Sgt. Leslie Maycock and four troopers manned this newest post of the recently established Fifth District. Unfortunately, depression-era economic austerity measures forced the post to close in 1933.

Groundbreaking for a new Niles post took place in September, 1938. The standard, brick, WPA barracks at 1001 South 11th Street was completed in August, 1939, under the command of Sgt. William Gore.

The Niles Post underwent a general renovation in 1970 and presently serves as the dispatch center for the Berrien County 9-1-1 emergency system.





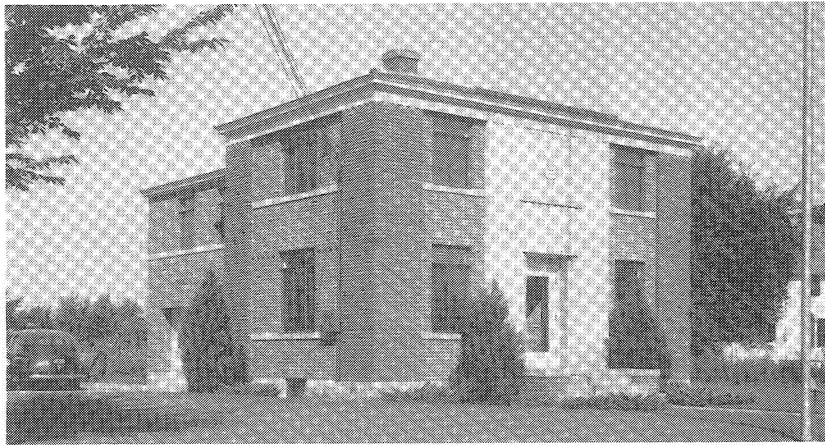
**NEW BUFFALO POST**  
**(Post 54)**

US-12, P. O. Box 190, New Buffalo, 49117

The Michigan State Police first established a post in New Buffalo, known as the "Gateway to Michigan," in 1935. Cpl. Donald Hoadley and motorcycle Troopers Dale Shoemaker and James Boden set up shop in a cottage on Buffalo Street, the main street of New Buffalo. One of their first cases involved the arrest of moonshiners; although prohibition had ended in 1933, many illegal stills continued to operate.

A permanent, brick, WPA post was completed near the intersection of M-60 and US-12 in 1937. A \$25,000 addition in 1967 expanded the facility to its present size.

Although reduced to the status of a team under the supervision of the Benton Harbor Post in 1976, New Buffalo was again upgraded to post status under F/Lt. Jacob Toering in 1987.



**SOUTH HAVEN POST**  
**(Post 55)**

720 LasGrange Street, South Haven, 49090

The Michigan State Police first assigned a detachment to South Haven in 1921 to patrol US-31 and to protect farmers' orchards from thieves. South Haven apparently operated as a seasonal, summer post in rented quarters during the 1920's and was closed for some years.

The WPA began construction of a standardized brick post in 1938. Sgt. Fred Enius and six troopers moved into the new barracks in the summer of 1939. Their motor fleet consisted of three patrol cars and two motorcycles. Tpr. Irvine Wurm, one of the original 1939 staff, became the only South Haven trooper to die in the line of duty - hit by a drunk driver while standing on the running board of another car during a traffic stop in 1941.

A renovation in 1965 increased the size of the post and the post interior was completely remodeled in 1988.



**WAYLAND POST**  
**(Post 56)**

544 N. Main Street, Wayland, 49348

During the early 1920's, the Michigan State Police assigned temporary motorcycle detachments to Grandville and Shelbyville. The department did not establish a permanent post between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo until numerous requests from local citizens prompted announcement of plans for a post at Wayland in 1956.

The Wayland Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups obtained an old welding shop, remodeled it with their own labor, and rented it to the department as a post for a nominal fee.

Cpl. Louis Brandt and six troopers opened the new post that same year, and the department later purchased the building. One of the Wayland Post's first "cubs," Tpr. Gerald L. Hough, later became director of the department.



**ST. JOSEPH POST**

*(Post 57)*

4032 South M-139. Building 124. St. Joseph. 49085

A Michigan State Police detachment first opened at Bridgman in 1920, but Berrien County citizens objected to this new organization and the department closed the post. Today, Berrien County is the only county in Michigan with three State Police posts. Troopers later spent three years investigating the House of David commune near Benton Harbor before finally arresting "King Ben," Benjamin Purnell, on rape charges at the commune in 1926.

The department did not establish a permanent presence in the area until October 1, 1970, when the Benton Harbor Post opened under the command of Sgt. Carl Hulander. The post moved to its present location in St. Joseph on October 13, 1982.

On September 9, 1984, Tpr. Robert Mihalik of the St. Joseph Post was slain in the village of Shoreham after stopping a man wanted in a failure-to-pay for gasoline incident. During a struggle, the suspect grabbed Mihalik's revolver and shot him in the chest. The man is now serving a life term for murder.





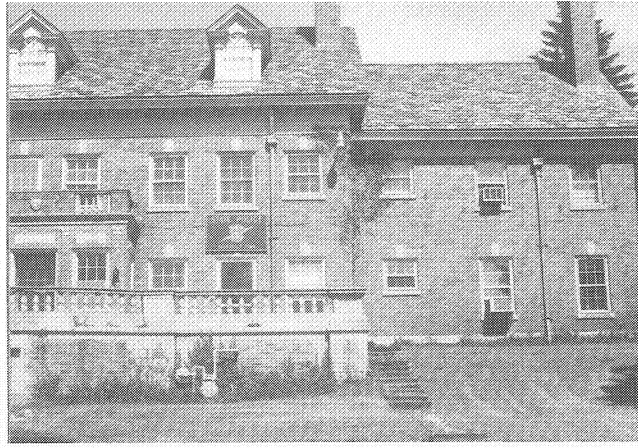
**HASTINGS POST**  
**(Post 58)**

907 W. State Street, Hastings, 49058

The department's first "team operation" was established in Hastings as an experimental project on June 1, 1975. Detached from the Wayland Post to enhance State Police services in Barry County, the team consisted of Sgt. Ronald MacDonald and eight troopers.

Using two rooms on the second floor of the Hastings City Hall for offices, team members took their patrol cars home and were dispatched by the Wayland Post. The team moved into its present facilities in 1985. The Hastings Team was upgraded to a full-fledged post under F/Lt. Richard Zimmerman in 1987.

The post recently added a memorial display for Hastings native Harold E. Anderson; the first Michigan State Police trooper killed in the line of duty (shot by rumrunners near Novi in 1921).



**HOLLAND TEAM**  
**(Team 59)**

975 S. Washington Avenue, Holland, 49423

The Michigan State Police first assigned temporary motorcycle detachments to Fennville and Hudsonville in 1920, but did not establish a permanent presence near Holland until 1979.

Established on June 1, 1979 as a detachment of the South Haven Post, the Saugatuck Team of six troopers, commanded by Sgt. William W. Smith, used office space on the main floor of the 17,000 square foot building known locally as the "Old Felt Mansion," across the street from the Michigan Dunes Correctional Facility in Allegan County.

State budget cuts forced the correctional facility to close in 1991, and the Saugatuck Team moved to a new leased facility in Holland on December 16, 1991. Five of the original team personnel continue to serve at the Holland facility.